

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MILAN 02728 201502Z
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 A-01 OPR-02 /021 W
----- 067809 /41
O R 201115Z DEC 76
FM AMCONSUL MILAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5136
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

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FOR ASST SECY THOMAS AND DEPUTY ASST SECY DIKEOS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: MOVEMENT SECURITY, MILAN

REF (A) MILAN 1297, (B) STATE 140305, (C) ROME 9362, (D) MILAN 1435,
(E) MILAN 1442, (F) MILAN 1756, (G) MILAN 2724, (H) STATE 305842

1. I REQUESTED AUTHORITY PURCHASE LOCALLY BUILT VEHICLES IN REF A.
NEED FOR SUCH VEHICLES HAS BECOME MORE PRESSING (REF G) AND WITH
THIS MESSAGE, I WISH TO RENEW REQUEST.

2. PRESENT VEHICLES ARE ONLY PARTIALLY ARMORED AND LOCAL EXPERIENCE
BOTH MILAN AND GENOA HAS BEEN THAT OCCUPANTS SHOT THROUGH WINDOWS
BEFORE THEY HAVE ANY CHANCE TO DUCK. OUR DRIVERS PERFECTLY AWARE
OF THEIR VULNERABILITY AND, WHATEVER THEIR LOYALTY AND DEVOTION,
WE CANNOT EXPECT THEM TO RISK LIVES
TO DRIVE OUT OF DANGER WHILE PASSENGERS ARE HUDDLED ON FLOOR OF CAR EVEN IF ANY
WARNING PROVIDED.

3. IN THIS CIRCUMSTANCE, WE WOULD PREFER
LESS VISIBILITY SINCE ALL OFFICIAL US MAKE
CARS STAND OUT LIKE SORE THUMBS IN MILAN
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TRAFFIC AND, AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, ARE
POSITIVE PROVOCATION. SINCE POWER, WEIGHT
AND SPEED ARE ALSO HELPFUL, WE ASKED AUTHORITY
ACQUIRE ALFA ROMEO SEDANS USED BY POLICE
HERE WHICH CAN BE FULLY ARMORED LOCALLY.
ALFA ROMEO ALSO PREPARED TO LEASE FULLY

ARMORED SEDAN IF THIS PREFERRED TO PURCHASE.

4. APPRECIATED DEPT'S SUGGESTION PARA 6 REF H TO CONSIDER INSTALLING BULLET RESISTANT WINDOWS IN CG OFFICIAL VEHICLE. THIS WOULD GO FAR TO MEET NEED ALTHOUGH EVEN IF THIS ADDITIONAL PROTECTION FITTED, I CONTINUE RECOMMEND THAT SECOND COSULATE SEDAN BE LOCALLY PROCURED AND ARMORED.

5. DURING DISCUSSIONS IN DEPT IN AUGUST, I WAS INFORMED THAT DECISION USE NON-US VEHICLES APPEARED CONTRARY US EXPORT INTERESTS. AS LONG TIME ECONOMIC OFFICER AND HAVING DIRECTION OF MILAN TRADE CENTER, I CAN ASSURE DEPT THAT THERE IS NOT NOW NOR HAS THERE BEEN NOR WILL THERE IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE BE MARKET FOR US BUILT PASSENGER VEHICLES IN ITALY. HIGH FUEL CONSUMPTION, HIGH TAX CHARGES, SIZE, STYLE, COSTS AND LACK OF DEALER SERVICES RULE US MAKES OUT OF ITALIAN MARKET AND US PRODUCERS MAKE NO EFFORT SELL US BUILT VEHICLES IN ITALY. MOREOVER, UE TO SERIOUS PROBLEMS PERSONNEL ENCOUNTERING IN MILAN TO HAVE US VEHICLES MODIFIED TO MEET REQUIREMENTS ITALIAN HIGHWAY CODE, WE HAVE RECENTLY ADVISED AGAINST BRINGING VEHICLES WITH US SPECIFICATIONS TO THIS POST. (MILAN'S 2701).

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6. SHOULD NOTE IN CONCLUSION THAT USIS IS IN PROCESS REPLACING SOME OR ALL OF VEHICLES IN ITALY WITH ITALIAN BUILT CARS. DEA MILAN ALSO USES ITALIAN VEHICLES.

7. IN SHORT:

A. ACCEPT SUGGESTION FOR BULLET RESISTANT WINDOWS CG VEHICLE;

B. RECOMMEND PROCUREMENT LOCALLY BUILT AND ARMORED VEHICLE REPLACE SECOND SEDAN. FINA

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